UNDER SECRETARY

December 24, 1958 OCT 2 1865 action taken: femultimate

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Dear Chris:

I have read the draft of your proposed reply to the Soviet note of November 27th.

I have one question only. It involves the sentence on page four reading "The Government of the United States will continue to hold the Soviet Government directly responsible under existing agreements."

I assume that there are other responsibilities under various phases of these agreements which have not been properly fulfilled by the Soviets. What we are now talking about is the Soviet agreement to respect our rights in Berlin, both in the occupancy of that city and Western Power access to it.

It would seem to me that the sentence should either be a bit modified or alternatively, it could be eliminated because the attitude of the United States is implicit in the context.

Otherwise, I repeat that I think the draft is excellent.

Sincerely,

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Honorable Christian Herter The Acting Secretary of State Washington, D. C.

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